

PROJECT OUTLINE

3 February 1955

Project Cryptonym or Subject: Equipment Procurement, [REDACTED]

FOIAB3B1

[REDACTED] FOIAB3B1

Sub-Project Cryptonym or Identification: NA

Amendment No: NA

Originating Division: [REDACTED] FOIAB3B1

25X1A9A

a. Division Chief: [REDACTED]

b. Branch Chief: NA

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c. Case Officer: [REDACTED], Ext. [REDACTED]

25X1

Target Area: Europe, Africa, Central and South America

Type of Project: Procurement of electronic equipment for operational use

Financial Mechanism: Contract

Funds Requested: Not to exceed \$30,000 in FY55

Current Status: New project, but procurement will extend into FY56 and possibly FY57

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1. OBJECTIVE: To enhance speed and realize financial economies in the [] coverage of Morse code press transmissions

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2. ORIGIN and POLICY GUIDANCE:

- a. Origin: NSCID-6 charges the Director of Central Intelligence with the conduct of all federal monitoring of foreign press broadcasts, an appreciable portion of which are transmitted in Morse code. Monitoring of these Morse code transmissions from European, African, and Latin American transmitters requires the employment of eleven code monitors at the []

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FOIAB3B1 [] This project will eventually reduce personnel requirements for this purpose to eight monitors.

- b. Whence proposed: Headquarters, []

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3. SITUATION:

- a. Background: At present all Morse code press material monitored by [] is copied manually. If the speed exceeds thirty-five to forty words per minute, the transmission is first recorded and then transcribed. This slows handling of the usable content. Manual operation is tiring and an average operator copies only four to six hours of actual transmissions per eight-hour shift. Equipment capable of performing this operation automatically and continuously has been commercially developed.

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- b. Progress to date: The converter has been observed in operation. It is operationally sound, accurate and reliable.

- c. Present Project: This project calls for the procurement of two Morse code to Teletype converters to handle basic Morse press coverage of the []

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- d. Future Projects: It is planned to submit a similar project in FY56, after the equipment procured by the present project has been thoroughly evaluated operationally, to provide two similar converters for the []

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FOIAB3B1 [] The complements of this equipment may require supplement in FY57, to take further advantage of automatic copying of Morse press schedules, with consequent further reductions in personnel.

- h. PROPOSAL: It is proposed to requisition two converters through the Logistics Office, which will contract for the procurement.

5. OPERATIONAL OUTLINE: NA

6. SECURITY: FOIAB3B1

- a. Cover: NA. [] does not employ cover.
- b. Knowledgeability: The manufacturer knows the [] CIA relationship through Office of Logistics contacts.
- c. Operational security: NA
- d. Risks: NA
- e. Personnel disposal: NA
- f. Disaster plan: NA

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7. COORDINATION:

- a. Relation to other projects: NA
- b. Significance within overall program in area: NA
- c. Extent of Coordination: Coordinated with Office of Communications-
with respect to non-existence of common interest

8. CONTROL:

- a. Nature of: Normal established overt administrative and fiscal
controls will prevail.
- b. Administrative Plan: NA
- c. Reports: NA

9. BUDGET DATA:

- a. Total overall CIA funds required for Fiscal Year 1955: 25X1A
- b. Availability of CIA funds required: Although not specifically
budgeted for this purpose in FY55, funds in the amount required
are available in the FY55 allotment.
- c. Non-CIA funds: NA FOIAB3B1
- d. Foreign currency: NA FOIAB3B1
- e. Funding: By increased allocation of funds to Logistics
Office
- f. Financial History: NA
- g. Further Requirements: It is planned that approximately 25X1A
FOIAB3B1 will be reallocated in the FY56 budget for procurement of
two converters for the and a similar
amount may be required in FY57. FOIAB3B1

10. SUPPORT DATA:

- a. Total CIA personnel: NA
- b. Material: NA
- c. Communications: NA
- d. Other CIA Support: NA
- e. Support from other United States agencies: NA

11. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- a. Current Status: Entirely satisfactory early units produced have
been considerably improved in recent months with respect to re-
liability, accuracy and ability to copy through noise.
- b. Commitments: None
- c. Effectiveness: Converter will copy Morse code at varying speeds
ranging from 10 to 150 words per minute, 24 hours per day, using
separate teleprinter to produce page copy.
- d. Anticipated results: It is anticipated that eventual savings
approximating \$14,000 a year through elimination of three GS-8
code monitor positions will be realized. Improved efficiency
also is anticipated. Life expectancy of the equipment is
five to ten years.
- e. Evaluation: Operational results will constitute evaluation.
- f. Policy questions: NA
- g. Congress: NA
- h. Extra-Agency action: NA
- i. Proprietary companies: NA
- j. Special considerations: NA
- k. Liquidation: NA